

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 5th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Laura Cordes; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Kate Ende; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Carol Francis; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner, and Susan White

Department: Derrick Grant; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert, and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Julie Brennan; Natalie Childs; Rachel Collamore; Jack Forbush; Rita Furlow; Bethany Jarvis; Diane Johanson; Gretchen Kinder; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Kathy Ridley; Malory Shaughnessy, and Joseph Zamboni

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- Michelle reported the Department has sent out the first of two Long Term Care supplemental payments, and is working on finalizing the October calculations.
- Some Appendix K provisions around staffing flexibility have been extended.
- CMS has notified the Department they want to have further conversation before formalizing the DME changes. We are awaiting a new target date.
- On September 30th, the Department posted a note on the DHHS blog outlining the plans surrounding rate adjustments for the coming year. The blog is located at : <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/blog/dhhs-announces-mainecare-rate-system-improvements-2021-09-30>.

- Laura Cordes requested a presentation on the blog post. Michelle will discuss with Kathy whether it might make sense to have the discussion in a different forum, separate from the regular MAC meeting.

b) Rate System Committee Update With Laura Cordes

- The next Rate System Committee meeting will be held October 25th at 2:00 p.m.

c) Jillian noted the Communications Committee meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, October 11th at 3:00 p.m.

- The Communications Committee will be discussing:
 - Unit rounding
 - Legacy rates
 - Program closures and subsequent response
 - Will there be supplemental payments in 2022?
 - Minimum wage bill

Michelle noted the thought was the communications subcommittee would be discussing member communications and outreach, but the questions on the agenda seem more appropriate for general MAC meeting discussion. Kathy noted she believes the communications subcommittee is focusing on the agenda items they shared as they feel those topics touch on what is missing in terms of general member communications.

Sarah would like to see the MAC reinvigorate the former Member Communications committee, if possible. Kathy will reach out to folks who represent member focused groups to see if there is anyone interested in participating or chairing the subcommittee. Esther, Sarah, and Kathy will check in regarding soliciting member engagement in the subcommittee.

Beth Pearce noted that regular MAC updates from Sarah on the communications efforts by OMS would be very helpful.

c.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review With Jenny Patterson

- Jenny noted that a detailed Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA update document was circulated with the meeting agenda.
- Two rules currently have open comment periods. The Global Setting rule comment period ends October 8th, and the Section 29 HCBS Waiver Amendment comment period ends October 10th.
- The comment period on the Global Setting rule was extended in light of the request for a public hearing. The hearing was held via Zoom

- Adult dental and DME are also significant areas of policy development. The Dental subcommittee is currently at the stage of analyzing Medicaid dental programs in other states.

d.) **HCBS Enhanced FMAP Worker Bonuses**

- Joseph Zamboni noted there is a specialized HCBS FMAP mailbox for questions: HCBS-FMAP.DHHS@maine.gov.

e.) **Discussion re: Timeline of Rollout of Unit Change from Quarters to Tenths**

- The MAC asked:
 - If the rule goes into effect Jan 1st, how quickly will the Department expect providers to implement the change?
 - How quickly can the accessors complete all the assessments so providers can implement the necessary changes on their end?
 - Will there be a leniency period?
 - What is the Department's readiness for this?
- Jenny noted the rule has not yet been proposed. The Department is communicating with providers in advance of the rulemaking, and will do implementation planning. Page 10 of the rulemaking packet included with the agenda has more information about this subject.
- Susan White noted that not all software vendors are able to do 10 minute billing increments. Many only allow 1 minute, 15 minute, 30 minute, and 1 hour increments.

g.) **Wrap Up**

- Kathy will reach out to previous members on the communications subcommittee to see who can chair the committee. She'll follow up with Esther and Sarah about member input.
- Kathy will check in with Sarah about an ongoing update around communications from the Department perspective.

The next MAC meeting will be November 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

- Let Kathy know of any agenda item requests for the next meeting.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver